UNITED NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1996/NGO/13
18 March 1996

ENGLISH ONLY

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-second session
Item 15 of the provisional agenda

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Written statement submitted by the International Abolitionist Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category I)

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[23 February 1996]

1. During its last session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, pursuant to paragraph 13 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/27, reviewed the draft programme of action for the prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, in the light of views and comments received from representatives of Governments and non-governmental organizations. By its decision 1995/109, the Sub-Commission transmitted the text of the draft (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/28/Add.1) to the Commission.

2. That same year, at the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing, delegates from the world over addressed the issue of violence against women and, more specifically, trafficking and violence due to prostitution. The Beijing Programme of Action, in its chapter IV, section D, demanded that Governments not only ratify and enforce existing international legal instruments but at the same time that all appropriate measures be taken to combat trafficking, prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation in order to better protect the victims and punish the perpetrators.

3. The draft programme of action offers such a global framework to combat the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others. It proposes national, regional and international measures to protect children and adults alike against these abuses which are incompatible with human rights, human dignity and the well-being of all persons, their families and societies as a whole.

4. Many of the measures included in the draft programme of action are based on the knowledge and experience of governmental and non-governmental organizations through their actions in the field.

5. More than 20 years have passed since the first version of the draft programme of action was elaborated with a strong input from the International Abolitionist Federation. In view of the ever-more-deteriorating situation throughout the world, the IAF urges the Commission to take all necessary action to ensure that the draft programme of action for the prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others is adopted at its fifty-second session in order to provide Governments with urgently needed guidelines to combat these blatant human rights violations.